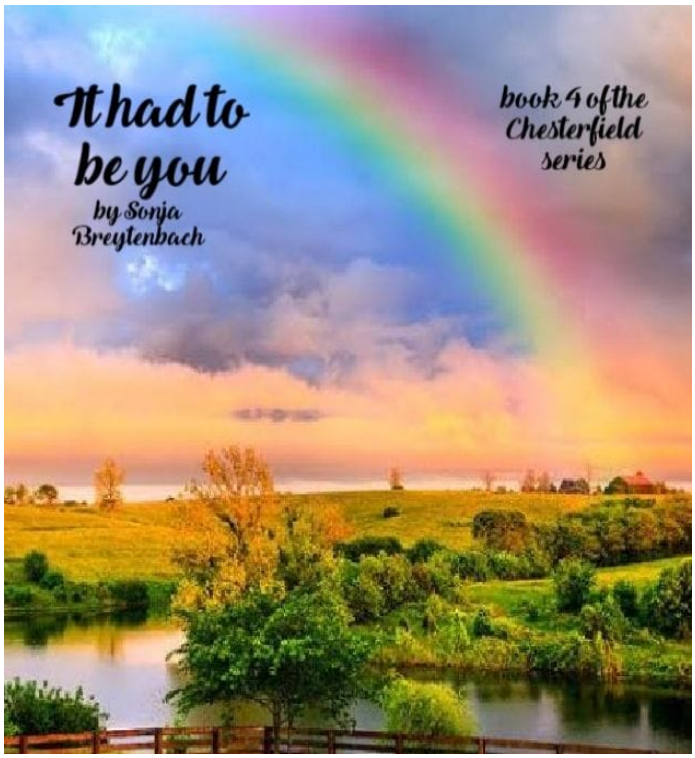


Note from the author this book is a work of fiction, places,dates,names and times is all a work of fiction. I am not a professional writer I enjoy exercising my talent to write, all the glory goes to Jesus Christ. Enjoy the journey with the characters of this book!

It had to be you. Book number 4 in the Chesterfield series

Who can find a

worthy woman

for her price is far

above rubies

Proverbs 31:10

Chapter 1

Chesterfield 1887

Thomas stood in front of the beautiful lady with the blonde hair and blue eyes. Her name is Amy Stewart. He wanted nothing more than for her to marry him at that moment.

“Please be my wife, I’m the butcher in town. I will be able to provide for you. We can have a happy life together.” Thomas said.

“No I am not interested in marrying anybody. Please leave me alone mister” Amy said.

Amy got up and left.

Thomas just stood there. He was heartbroken. This was not the first time he had asked a lady to marry him in this way. He was eager to have a wife, but this time the rejection hit hard after numerous failed marriage proposals to find a wife. This one hurt the most, the competition in town where fierce, woman in Chesterfield where scarce. When a new lady arrived in town many men fied for that lady to be their wife. Thomas felt that he always lost. He saw men finding partners everyday. What was wrong with him, that the women didn't want him. He was done trying.

Chapter 2

Chesterfield 1887

Thomas entered his small house, he saw a stack of envelopes on his writing desk. He had to open them sometime. He took off his jacket and went and sat on the chair at the small writing desk.

Thomas had two brothers and a sister. His mother and father lived in Summerfeld. He saw them about once a year. Thomas was aged thirty three years old, he was the youngest child. He bought himself the butcher shop at age twenty seven. His father helped him with the money to buy the shop. He done the family accounting up until then. As well as help in his uncles butchery in Summerfeld. He opened up a letter it was from his mother. His father was ill and she didn't think he had a long time left. His

mother wanted him to come see his father before his time came. He put the piece of paper down. Thomas sat and thought of his father. Tears started swelling in his eyes.

His father was a doctor, he was a very busy man in his time when Thomas grew up. His fathers name was Lionel Gelding. His father used to take Thomas to the park when Thomas was little with his siblings and he would buy them all candy.

His father treated his mother with respect.They loved each other deeply and they would always dance together in their living room with his oldest brother playing the piano. Thomas wanted the same relationship with a woman as his parents had. He had a happy childhood. Tomorrow morning he will pack and close his shop and leave for Summerfeld.

Chapter 3

Chesterfield 1887

The next morning Thomas loaded his wagon, he had one horse called Buckle. Buckle was a white horse.

It was a beautiful day the road was dusty he just wanted a bath.

After an hour and a half of driving he saw a lady on the side of the road. She had long black hair and green eyes. She was calling after him, showing him to stop. He didn't want to give anybody a lift, most of all if it's a woman. He wanted to be alone on the wagon on his way to his parents.

"Please stop!" the woman yelled as he was riding further away from her.

"Please, Please!" she yelled

Why did woman always had to get their way. Thomas thought by himself.

He stopped the wagon even though he didn't want to. The lady was wearing a black skirt with a white blouse, she had a hat on her head. Thomas didn't help her put her luggage on the wagon. She had pots and pans with her and a big brown suitcase.

"Thank you for stopping mister" the lady said

"I am Cassandra Peters and you are?" Cassandra introduced herself.

"Thomas Gelding" Thomas grumbled. Why couldn't it be someone else on the side of the road why did it have to be her?

On the back of the wagon where Cassandra was seated with her luggage, Cassandra went on about the heat. She said she felt sweaty, she moaned about the mud on her skirt and boots, she moaned about the tear in her skirt.

She moaned on and on Thomas couldn’t stand it.

Why was she on the side of the road anyway?

“please lady just keep quiet till we get there.” Thomas said.

“You are headed to Summerfeld right?” Cassandra asked him.

“yes” Thomas said.

Cassandra talked to Thomas about looking for a job in Summerfeld, she was tired of the people in Chesterfield they didn’t mind their own business. Thomas didn’t like the lady, she wasn’t quiet for one moment, he wanted to take his ears off till they reached Summerfeld.

Chapter 4

Chesterfield 1887

After they where on the road for three hours since Thomas picked Cassandra up. He got of off the wagon to go take a leak behind a tree. Cassandra had to get off the wagon by herself. She herself had business to do behind a tree somewhere. When she was done she saw Thomas sitting under a tree eating an apple her stomach growled. She looked at Thomas pleading with her eyes

“o, okay here have the other two apples” he said and started on a sandwich then.

Thomas took out a water bottle and took a huge swig. Cassandra was thirsty now. She pleaded Thomas with her eyes again. Thomas then passed the water bottle to her.

Cassandra helped herself onto the wagon again. And they were on their way again.

“are we there yet?” Cassandra asked after a few moments. Thomas didn’t even answer her.

After about 30 minutes drive the wagon wheel hit a rock and the wheel broke off. Cassandra yelled she nearly fell off the wagon. She got off and stood next to the wagon.

“You nearly killed me she said” Cassandra said

“What happened?” Cassandra asked.

“Looks like the wheel broke off, I have to fix it, Thomas cursed when he saw the the wheel.

Cassandra went and sat on the grass next to the road.

“So do you live in Summerfeld?” she asked Thomas.

“no, my parents live there” Thomas said annoyed.

“O, you have family ,my parents died two years ago, I have no relatives left. I lived with them, but I lost our family home because I couldn’t afford it anymore. I had to go from town to town looking for a job. I have found one here and there but things didn’t work out.”

Thomas listened he may not have liked Cassandra much, but he saw she had it hard. He felt sorry for her.

“I’m so sorry about your parents my father is in very bad shape too.” Thomas said.

Cassandra told him about how she had a brother who also died when he was still young.

Thomas told her about his siblings, while fixing the wagon wheel. The wagon wheel got

fixed two hours later and they continued on their way to Summerfeld, not knowing that they actually became friends.

Chapter 5

Summerfeld 1887

They entered Summerfeld that evening at around 8 pm. Thomas helped Cassandra off, off the wagon.

“Are you sure you’ll be okay?” Thomas asked Cassandra.

“I’ll be okay, don’t worry about me.” Cassandra said.

Thomas gave her, her luggage and he watched Cassandra walk off, not knowing if he will ever see her again.

Thomas rode up to his parents house then, Margaret Gelding, Thomas' mother opened the door to her son.

"My dear boy I have missed you so much" she gave Thomas a hug.

"Come see your father." Margaret said.

Thomas walked to his fathers bedroom, on the big bed Lionel Gelding lay looking very pale and frail.

Lionel saw his youngest then.

"Thomas" Lionel said in nearly a whisper.

"I have missed you son" Lionel said.

"I came as fast as I could when I received your letter" Thomas said.

Thomas held his fathers hand sitting beside him. In the room with them was Margaret, Thomas' sister Amanda and his two brothers

Lionel Jnr. the oldest and Neil. They all shared their fathers raven black hair.

Lionel looked at his son and then at all his other children and his wife.

“I am happy to have seen all my children. I don’t have long now son, you must find a good wife for you now” Lionel said. Thomas was the only child not married yet. Thomas’ tears fell freely on his cheeks everyone in the room was crying except Lionel. Lionel squeezed Thomas’ hand and breathed his last breath. As if saying he loved him.

Thomas still held his fathers hand. Life surely wasn’t going to be the same without his father. The pain of it was deep.

Chapter 6

Summerfeld 1887

Funeral arrangements was made and Thomas' father was buried a couple of days later, Thomas felt as if he was in a daze.

Cassandra left the hotel room the next day after she was dropped off in Summerfeld by Thomas. She spent the whole day the next day looking for work. People could be very mean, she was worried. She had to find something, she didn't know where she was going to stay. Her finances where dwindling and fast. She could barely afford to eat. Something had to come through.

"Dear God please help me, show me the way" Cassandra prayed.

After an hour of walking up and down in the street she decided that she will book herself a hotel for six days with the money she had left.

She went and book the hotel. She had 6 days to find work. She didn’t allow herself to think of the what ifs.

Chapter 7

Summerfeld 1887

Thomas wanted to be with his family in this time of grief, but he had a business to run that couldn’t be kept closed. He stayed four more days at his parents home and he then loaded his wagon and left. His whole family cried seeing him go. Thomas cried on his way home.

After about an hours drive he saw someone on the side of the road.

What the heck, it can’t be is it the grief messing with his mind. Is he seeing ghosts?

On the side of the road Cassandra stood wearing the white blouse with a black skirt and the same hat on her head, she had her brown suitcase with her and her pots and her pans.

Thomas stopped the wagon.

“Hello Thomas” she said. “ I didn’t know that I will see you again and so soon.”

“Hello Cassandra” Thomas said. How was something like this even possible? The fact that he will find Cassandra on the road again left him speechless.

Cassandra could tell that he was hurting she remembered him telling her of his father.

They where quiet for a time, then after another hour of driving on the wagon.

“My father didn’t make it” Thomas said.

She hugged him then, she was sitting next to him on the wagon this time.

“You will get through this” Cassandra said.

Cassandra talked about looking for a job then and how everyone just said no. She told him how she only could pay for six nights at the hotel and she cried too.

After a couple of hours the wagon hit a rock then and Cassandra yelled.

“Not again!” Cassandra yelled

Thomas climbed off the wagon and took a look and said

“This time it’s the opposite wheel that broke off.” He looked so down she felt so sorry for him.

Cassandra got off, off the wagon and went and sat on the side of the road on the grass.

“Does this happen to you a lot?” Cassandra asked.

“No not really” Thomas said

He looked at her then, she was actually a beautiful woman, it was like he was noticing her for the first time.

“What is the name of your horse?” Cassandra said.

“Buckle” Thomas said

“He is beautiful, let me get him some water” she took off the water bottle off the wagon and took a bowl and filled it and gave the horse a drink. Thomas thanked her.

She talked about where she grew up and how they were poor and couldn’t afford a horse. She told him she always wanted a dog but her father wouldn’t let her get one. She talked about her brother and how they used to swim in a pond together.

Thomas listened to Cassandra and he could sense she had been through tough times. Thomas talked to her about his brothers and sister as well. How they used to go to the park with their father. And how they all learned to play the piano. His oldest brother Lionel had real talent and they all helped their mother bake cookies.

After nearly two hours the wheel was fixed and he helped Cassandra onto the wagon. When they were on their way they went on talking about everyday things. Thinking about her and what she said earlier he told her "Cassandra I am a butcher in Chesterfield, I own the shop and I want you to be my assistant. I will teach you all I can that my uncle that is a butcher in Summerfeld taught me. I'll provide you with a place to stay and meals you will be paid a wage. Will you come and work for me?" Thomas asked.

Surprised Cassandra looked at him

“Yes of course thank you, you won’t regret it. I’ll work hard.” Cassandra said.

Thomas knew she would.

Chapter 8

Chesterfield 1887

Chesterfield loomed in front of them. They got off at Thomas’ small house. Thomas showed Cassandra her bedroom in the three bedroom house.

Cassandra looked around there was a bed with a bedside table, there was a kerosene lamp on it, there was a chest of drawers with a wash basin and pitcher on top. The room had blue curtains. She liked it and was grateful for a roof over her head. She had to sleep many a night outside because she had

nowhere to go. Cassandra offered that she will cook everyday because it was what she loved to do and he didn't mind. Thomas enjoyed her food that she cooked that night.

She started working the next day in the butcher shop and there Cassandra and Thomas learned a lot about each others skills.

Thomas was good with a knife and she was handy packing the meat and good with numbers. Thomas was good at accounting but not as good at numbers as Cassandra. She and Thomas made turns cleaning the butchery. They would tell each other stories that they have heard. He will read them both Bible in the evenings.

Chapter 9

Chesterfield 1888

After a year of working together. Thomas knew he was in love with Cassandra. He wanted her to be his wife but the fear of rejection came over him.

One evening they sat outside on chairs in his backyard. They had,had a good meal. Cassandra sure made one mean stew. There was a cool wind blowing in the air.

Cassandra made a joke.

“We are sitting here like an old married couple.” she laughed

“Lets do it!” Thomas said

“Lets do what?” Cassandra asked.

“Lets get married.” Thomas said.

“yes I don’t see why not. I love you Thomas.” Cassandra said.

He told her he loved her too. They kissed and held each other for a long time then.

Thomas was over the moon, she said yes.

They married in church the next day. She was wearing a dress she recently bought. It was blue and white with lots of buttons. After the wedding they ate at a restaurant with 5 guests.

Chapter 10

Chesterfield 1889

It was a July morning when Cassandra talked to Thomas over breakfast.

“The ladies at church wants me to cook every Sunday. Are you going to supply the meat?”

Thomas didn’t see why he couldn’t.

“I would love to help darling.” Thomas gave her a kiss and went to feed the horse.

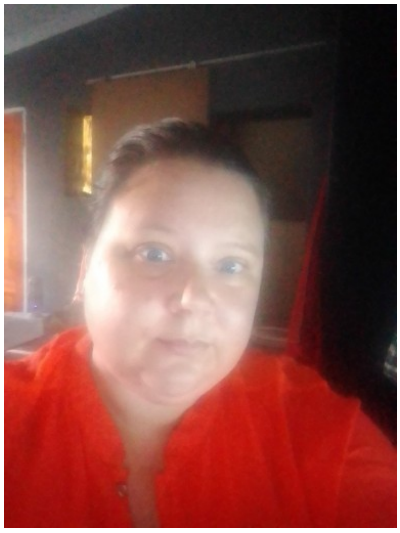
A moment later he came in with a box with a red ribbon on it. Cassandra opened the box

and inside was a ball of black fur. It was a poodle. She was overjoyed and kissed Thomas.

Six months later Cassandra shared the news that she was pregnant. Cassandra and Thomas had a girl and a boy. Cassandra continued working in the shop but fewer hours and she continued cooking for the church on Sundays.

Cassandra and Thomas grew old together and saw their great grand children.

THE END.



About the author she lives in Johannesburg, South Africa where she enjoys, reading, writing and poetry